

Docket 59826
Serial No. 10/776,725

PATENT APPLICATION

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the initial Office Action on the merits dated March 24, 2005. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 20 stands allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claims 4, 8, and 11-16 have been canceled and claims 1, 5, 10, and 18 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-3, 5-10, and 17-20 remain in this application with claims 1, 10, and 20 being independent.

IN THE CLAIMS:

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections:

Claims 1-3, 9-10, 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,478,587 to Sharples. However, the examiner has indicated that claims 4-8, 11-16, and 18 are merely objected to as depending from a rejected base claim and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, without admitting the propriety of these rejections, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 4 and claim 4 has been canceled accordingly. Claim 5 has been amended to properly depend from claim 1 and claim 8 has been canceled so as not to be inconsistent with claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested along with claims 2-3 and 5-9 which depend directly or indirectly therefrom.

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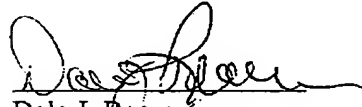
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Further, claim 10 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 16 and, without admitting the propriety of the present rejections, claims 11-16 have been canceled. Claim 18 has also been amended so as to properly depend from claim 10. Therefore, claim 10 should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested along with claims 17-19 which depend therefrom.

This application should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested. If the examiner has any suggestions that would place this application in even better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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